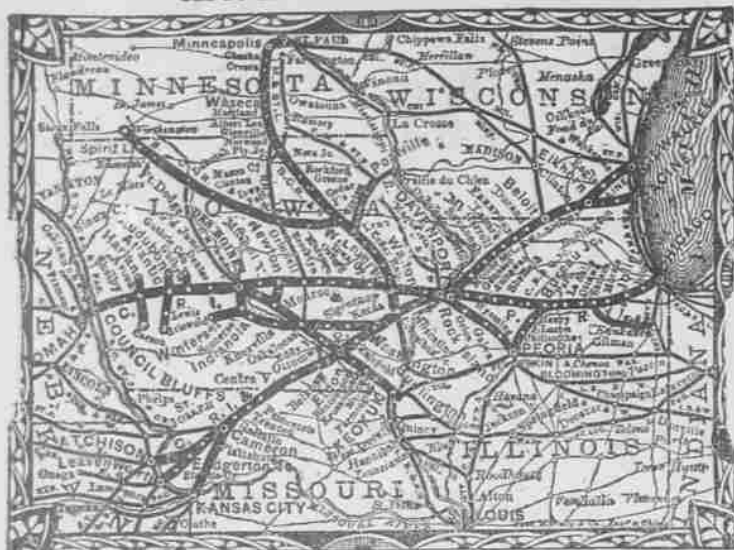


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OUR FRENCH LETTER.

(Special correspondence of the HERALD.)

PARIS, August 1, 1883

In winter Parisians live during six months under water, which is considered superior to London fogs, and in summer, six months in the water at the sea side, or a spa. The sea side migration also presents the advantage of allowing an exchange of visits, which in the metropolis is next to impossible for business people, who as a rule only meet at dinners, marriages and burials. The doctors order their patients to sojourn at the sea side in order to find repose; it is but ordinary life, plus additional fatigues and diminished comforts.

Dieppe is a nonchalante town, a sleepy hollow for ten months of the year, when it rises up to welcome the happy or the idle, from France and England, who come there for a few days. Just now it is very gay. It was the favorite holiday retreat of the Duchesse de Berry, the mother of the Comte de Chambord. At present it is under the patronage of the Comtesse de Paris, whose residence, the Château de Eu, is in the vicinity. Visitors ought to arrange to view this magnificent castle, the headquarters of the Orleanist prince. In the picture gallery is to be seen an admirable portrait of Queen Victoria, painted over forty years ago in honor of her visit. Beside it hangs the famous picture of Jeanne d'Arc. The Salon Victoria, named after the illustrious guest, is very beautiful.

The Comte de Chambord, who appears to be next to out-of-danger, has been called the "child of a miracle," because he was born seven months after his father's assassination and thus gave hopes for preserving the elder Bourbon branch from dying out. The Comte de Paris, whose father, the Duc d'Orleans, was destined to become as popular a sovereign as Henri IV, was the victim of a carriage accident, has still stronger claims to be regarded as a "child of a miracle." One day when Louis-Philippe was driving in his carriage with the queen, and the widowed Duchesse d'Orleans and her baby the Comte de Paris, a bridge gave way under the vehicle, and on the edge of a chasm. The King at once seized the baby, the Dauphin in fact, and threw him into the apron of a country woman; the other occupants were commanded by the King not to move, lest the vehicle might topple over till the horses were extricated.

The government has won a tremendous success by the Senate voting the judicial reform bill. The minister of justice has now the power to remove and replace all the judges, some 700, within the course of three months. It may be accepted that not a Rhadamantus holding anti-republican views will be retained. The only wonder is if they have been continued so long. If royalty or Bonapartism came into power, they would as usual make a clean sweep of the bench, which appears to be thus political, rather than judicial.

Greater calmness characterizes all foreign questions. We are waiting for more light from Madagascar, Tootin and the Congo. Egypt is still the sore point, and the cause of the outbreak of the old Adam against England, whom the French will never forgive for doing what they declined to do. But we never pardon those we wrong. The Suez canal question is momentarily in the doldrums; the Chanviniere still accuses England of spreading the cholera rather than lessen her greed for gain, forgetting that the gainers might be the first to loose. M. Weil, a sort of spasmodic journalist, will give odds that France will be at war with England before Germany. M. Laisant ought to denounce him as he did Emile de Girardin as a Prussian, for thus laboring to push England into the Austro-German alliance.

Deputy Laisant having charged his colleagues with having sold their votes, Walpole fashion, has been compelled to swallow the leak; an outrage like that would be the end of a public man, elsewhere. A Belgian bankrupt confessed he paid two deputies 16,000 francs for their influence in a shaky business. The deputies, still unnamed, in time censured the business—when it broke down, but did not return the 16,000 francs—that was for cabs and anxiety of mind.

M. Leon Say's article in an English magazine has been translated. It deals ostensibly with Boer. Even his friends consider the production weak, rambling, and a begging of questions. Is the Suez administration to be exclusively French, Anglo-French, or International? That's the nut to crack. If the canal is to be exclusively at the beck of M. de Lesseps, England cannot be blamed for maintaining an exclusively English protectorate of Egypt, Tunis like, plus finding another way to the "meeting of the waters."

Following some knowing folks, the first of August ought to be as carefully surveyed as the Ides of March. Lamas day whether so called from bread feast offerings, or the custom to offer lambs to the Archbishop of York for the cathedral and its interests, has not the less the reputation of being fatal for apopleptic people, and the second is equally as dangerous as the first. *Prima necat sternitque secunda coheret.* Hence the old custom of bleeding at this period. It is on a par with the doctor, who entering a fever hospital, saw a patient eating a raw herring. Having learned the patient recovered, he noted down: "raw herring capital for expelling fever." And poor Ischia, that isle of beauty,

the first lion to visit, and the last to quit, by every traveler to Naples. What more lovely trip than the steam round the island, clad in its semi-tropical verdure, under the bluest of skies, and amidst of sunshine. In France we dance on volcanoes—occasionally—in southern Italy the inhabitants reside on them. No more exquisite, more extensive panorama can be obtained, than from the summit of Mount Ercomeo, or its hermitage of St. Nicholas. It is a fitting head-stone for the fresh common grave of Casamicciola.

Summer is perpetual at Ischia; the valleys are miracles of vegetation, stimulated by the lukewarm character of the subsoil. The fish in the neighborhood of the isle are superior to those caught in the surrounding bay. Its white wine is nectar, its fruits ambrosia. No wonder poets peopled it with gods and dryades. The name of the island has been the subject of much contention, whether as Iuvirina or Pithecia. The Romans considered it to be inhabited by monkeys. Pity is of opinion the name is due to its poetry factories. Moderns interpret it as meaning open fire. The first people who occupied the island were driven away by earthquakes; later a colony of Syracusans arrived, but had to quit owing to volcanic eruptions. The town of Ischia is about 17 miles from Naples, and built on a basaltic rock 630 feet high. The castle was erected by Alphonse I of Aragon, who captured the island, and compelled all the women and girls to wed his soldiers.

Besides its numerous vegetable and mineral productions, Ischia is most famous for its mineral springs, containing as they do soda, potash, iodine, etc., and efficacious against female debility, rheumatism, liver and kidney disorders. The temperature of the water is about 158° F., and each spring is crowded like a pool of Bethesda, from all the dwellers beyond Mesopotamia. Ischia was the seat of the exploits of Typhon, whom Juno in a fit of jealousy created by striking the earth with her hand. He had 100 heads and he breathed flames from his 100 mouths. He was frightened gods and men. The upper part of his body was covered with feathers, his thighs and finger ends with coiling serpents. He was so tall, that his head touched the skies, and he so frightened the deities when he looked in on them, that they fled to Egypt. His step-father Jupiter, flung a thunder bolt at him; that only scotched; then he seized Jupiter, cut off his arms and legs, and imprisoned him in a den. Mercury and Pan came to the rescue, rescued the god his members who then pursued Typhon with thunderbolts, till he killed him. He was buried under Mount Etna. Venus happened to be in the vicinity of Ischia, when Typhon endeavored to catch her; she would have been captured, only her son was yachting on the backs of two fishes and took his mother up beside him. Typhon is rumored to have conquered Egypt, where he was held responsible for excessive heats and draughts. The red sea, peculiar to Egypt, was his favorite animal. The Egyptians offered sacrifices to Typhon, but if he did not hear their prayers, they covered him with abuse, assaulted every red-haired person they met, and were only appeased by throwing a red sea over a precipice.

The next official take of France of course for colonization purposes, as down on the roster, is Obok, on the coast of Eastern Africa. The native kings are concluded to be kindly disposed, and ripe for liberty, equality, and fraternity, as they kill Italian but only rob French, travelers.

At the Versailles assizes two ruffians were condemned to death—that is to be reprieved by M. Grevy—one was a man who cut up a child he had by his own daughter, and the other a young prisoner, who mortally stabbed a model gaiter.

France is to adapt the German plan of a special hospital ship, painted white, to follow the fleet.

An American merchant from New Orleans arrived in Paris last week; after a wash and brush up in his hotel he left his family to buy cigars, promised to be back to dinner. Five days elapsed; no news, till at last he was discovered in the St. Anne lunatic asylum, in the dangerous ward. The unfortunate man could not speak French, and had a twitch in his face that worked his features into a kind of savage, snapping, grin. He was found at St. Owen, the widest outskirts of Paris, hailing a return hearse; he was soon surrounded by small boys; the more he spoke, the more he grinned, and the more the lads yelled, especially as he shook his sticks—he is a cripple—at them. It was thus a policeman found him, and conveyed him to the asylum as dangerous. He was only restored to the bosom of his family, on condition they would undertake to keep an eye on him.

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